



Water Quality NewsFlash

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LA Trash – Caltrans / DPW start ad campaign – Caltrans and Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and will spend more than \$1 million on an advertising campaign to reduce litter and stormwater pollution. "Don't Trash California" ads will appear locally during the rest of the year. This effort is based on a three-year Fresno area pilot program. Both the LA River and Ballona Creek have TMDLs with the goal of reducing the trash load to zero. General information posted at: <http://www.donttrashcalifornia.info/index.htm>

Pollution Costs – Study places price on health impacts – Using data from other studies, a researcher has estimated that typical bacteria levels at Newport and Huntington Beaches in Orange County cause a cumulative public cost of \$3.3 million per year in health-related expenses. The calculation includes lost wages and medical care. The economic burden per gastrointestinal illness (GI) was calculated as \$36.58, acute respiratory disease is \$76.76, ear ailment is \$37.86, and the burden per eye ailment is \$27.31. Values for discomfort were not included. Although not used in this study, contingent valuation techniques can be used to estimate values for non market environmental benefits such as disease avoidance. (Personally, I would pay a lot more than \$36 to avoid a bout of GI) Article: http://today.uci.edu/news/release_detail.asp?key=1312

Alameda Creek – Migration obstacles to be removed – Funds from foundations, state agencies, and Caltrans will be used to remove obstacles in Alameda Creek that prevent the migration of steelhead trout. The Caltrans funds are mitigation for possible adverse effects on salmonids from pile-driving during reconstruction of the Bay Bridge. <http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2005/05/04/BAGFICJKB71.DTL>

Buckyballs – A new priority pollutant? – In the 1970s, U.S. EPA produced a list of chemicals that cause cancer (or are suspected of causing cancer) or which are toxic at low concentrations and are also discharged by one or more major industry category. This list of 129 distinct substances is now known as the "Priority Pollutant List" and is the basis for many effluent and water quality monitoring programs. The list is occasionally modified but many recently identified problem pollutants are not on the list, including most brominated fire retardants, perchlorate, MTBE, environmental hormones (endocrine disrupting chemicals), and newer pesticides such as diazinon. Even when water quality impacts are suspected, these non-listed compounds are often omitted from monitoring programs because EPA has not developed compliance criteria for them.

One of the latest potentially harmful pollutants are minute soccer-ball-shaped molecules created for medical and other uses. Commonly called buckyballs, after Buckminster Fuller, these molecules demonstrate aquatic toxicity at moderate pollutant levels (0.5 parts per million). These and related "nanomaterials" are not yet in large-scale production but may present a future environmental risk. EPA's Priority Pollutant List is posted at:

<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/criteria/wqcriteria.html>

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, fkrieger@msn.com with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>